Appendix II

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Renoprotective Effects of 2-Hydroxyestradiol. Stevan P. Tofovic, 1.2 Raghvendra K. Dubey, 1.5 Sheldon I. Bastacky, Edwin K. Jackson, 1.3 **Center** for Clinical Pharmacology: *Departments of Medicine: *Pharmacology; *Pathology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA: ⁵Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Clinic for Endrocrinology, University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland.

Our previous studies demonstrate that 2-hydroxyestradiol (2-OHE), a metabolite of estradiol with little affinity for estrogen receptors, has greater antimitogenic effects on smooth muscle cells and fibroblasts compared with estradiol. In the present study we investigated the potential renoprotective effects of 2-OHE, both in vitro and in vivo. In vitro studies were conducted in isolated rat glomerular mesangial cells. 2-OHE concentrationdependently (0.001-1µmol/L) inhibited serum (2.5%)-induced cell growth as assessed by DNA synthesis (3H-thymidine incorporation). Importantly, the inhibitory effects of 2-OHE were not blocked by IC1182780 (100 µmol/L), an estrogen receptor antagonist. Furthermore, 2-OHE inhibited serum-induced collagen synthesis (3H-proline incorporation) and cell proliferation. In vivo studies were conducted in male, obese (fa-favr) ZSF1 rats, a model of nephropathy associated with hypertension and the metabolic syndrome. 2-OHE (10 µg/h/ kg via osmotic minipumps) was given for 24 weeks. Chronic treatment with 2-OHE significantly reduced proteinuria (12 weeks: 369±44 vs 185±27 mg/day; 24 weeks:586±41 vs 333±21 mg/day, control vs. 2-OHE, repectively; p<0.001) and the severity of glomerulosclerosis (11.1±0.9 vs 6.7±0.6%) and attenuated interstitial inflammation (p<0.05). This study indicates that 2-OHE exerts renoprotective effects that are mediated by estrogen receptor-independent mechanisms. The renoprotective effects of 20HE are due, at least in part, to inhibition of key proliferative mechanisms involved in glomerular remodeling and sclerosis.

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